

AMENDMENTS**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice.

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Previously Presented) A portable information terminal device comprising:

a first enclosure and a second enclosure of said portable information terminal device freely openable and closable about a hinge mechanism,

an imaging element provided within said first enclosure;

a first lens provided within said first enclosure for said imaging element;

a second lens, a focal length of which being shorter than that of said first lens provided within said first enclosure for said imaging element;

a lens selection means, provided within said first enclosure, which, in response to an opening and a closing operation of said first and second enclosures, selects one of said first lens and said second lens, so that, in an open condition a focal point of said first lens is established at said imaging element, and in a closed condition a focal point of said second lens is established at said imaging element; and

a transparent plate, provided on said second enclosure, to which a tip of a finger of an user of said portable information terminal device is attached,

wherein said imaging element captures an image of a fingerprint of said tip of the finger on said transparent plate by said second lens selected by said lens selection means.

3. (Previously Presented) A portable information terminal device comprising:

a first enclosure and a second enclosure of said portable information terminal device freely openable and closable about a hinge mechanism;

an imaging element provided within said first enclosure;

a first window provided on a front surface of said second enclosure for said imaging element and having a keyboard thereon;

a first lens provided within said first enclosure for said imaging element;

a second lens, a focal length of which being shorter than that of said first lens, provided within said first enclosure for said imaging element;

a second window provided on a front surface of said first enclosure, said front surface thereof being opposite to said front surface of said second enclosure, when both of said enclosures being attached to each other; and

a transparent plate, to which a tip of a finger of an user of said portable information terminal device is attached, being positioned on a back surface of said second enclosure so as to oppose to said first window,

wherein said transparent plate, said first window, said second lens and said imaging element are arranged in one row when said first and second enclosures are contacted to each other to form a closed condition.

4. (Previously Presented) The portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein a lens selection means is provided within said first enclosure, said lens selection means causes said first and second lenses to be moved in response to an opening and a closing operation of said first and second enclosures, so that said lens selection means establishes a focal point of said first lens on said imaging element when both enclosures are in an open condition, and when both enclosures are in a closed condition, a focal point of said second lens is established at said imaging element.

5. (Previously Presented) The portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein said first lens is disposed between said second window and said imaging element when said first and second enclosures ~~being~~ are in an open condition.

6. (Previously Presented) The portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein said transparent plate is disposed within a depression provided on said rear surface of said second enclosure.

7. (Previously Presented) The portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein a LED for illuminating said tip of the finger on said transparent plate is provided in a vicinity of said transparent plate.

8. (Previously Presented) The portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein said first lens is a lens for forming an image of an object disposed outside said first enclosure onto said imaging element.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The portable information terminal device according to claim 3, said device further comprising:

a pattern comparison means which compares a pattern of said fingerprint captured by said imaging element with a pattern stored prior in a memory; and

a releasing means, which, only when said pattern comparison means detects that said patterns coincide with each other, releases a prohibition on processing of a prescribed signal processing operation.

12. (Previously Presented) The portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein said device is a portable telephone apparatus.

13. (Previously Presented) The portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein said device is a portable computer.